

Response to Official Action
Application No. 10/733,429
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Amendments to the Drawings:

No amendments are made to the Drawings herein.

REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-5, 7, 12 and 17 are amended and Claim 8 is cancelled. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable consideration thereof is earnestly requested. Applicants believe that no fee is due for the addition of independent claims, as all additional independent claims are merely added for purposes of rewriting dependent claims in independent format (see MPEP §607).

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, but has indicated that Claims 1-4 are otherwise allowable. Claims 1-4 have been amended such that Applicants respectfully submit the metes and bounds thereof are readily ascertainable. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claims 1-4 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 7, 8 and 12-19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 5 has been amended to incorporate all limitations of Claim 8 (which the Examiner has indicated is allowable), and Claim 8 has been cancelled. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 5, as well as Claims 6 and 9-11 which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 (which the Examiner has indicated is allowable) has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any

intervening claims. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 12 (which the Examiner has indicated is allowable) has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 12, as well as Claims 13-16 which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 17 (which the Examiner has indicated is allowable) has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 17, as well as Claims 18 and 19 which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, namely Claims 1-7 and 9-19, are patentable over the references of record, and earnestly solicits allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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